



March 1, 2022

Re: HB 5046 AN ACT ADOPTING THE INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT AND PSYCHOLOGY INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT.

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg and Members of the Public Health Committee:

The Connecticut Psychological Association urges support of the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT), an interstate compact that facilitates the practice of psychology using telecommunications technologies (telepsychology) and/or temporary in-person, face-to-face psychological practice.

- PSYPACT telehealth will be utilized when the CT patient moves or travels to another PSYPACT state; the patient's CT licensed psychologist will be able to continue to provide care with a PSYPACT certificate (called an E.Passport).
- PSYPACT temporary in-person, face-to-face practice allows a PSYPACT psychologist from CT to practice for 30-days annually in another PSYPACT state; and a psychologist from another PSYPACT state to do the same in CT. For example, this would allow for up to 30 separate days of specialty consultation, or for transition to establishing a practice in CT. It does not allow for 30 days annually of practice with ongoing patients. **Psychologists who establish a practice in CT will continue to be required to be licensed in CT.**

The cost to Connecticut is minimal – annually there is a \$10 fee per psychologist who chooses to join PSYPACT, a cost which could be passed on to the psychologist. There is also a requirement that within 10 years of activating PSYPACT, CT would need to include a background check of all applicants at initial licensure; again, this fee could be passed on to the new psychologist.

In addition, PSYPACT could coordinate with HAVEN (CT's alternative and confidential health assistance program) and will suspend the participant's PSYPACT certificates until completion of HAVEN's plan.

Among the many benefits of PSYPACT are:

- Increased access to competent mental health care in CT.
- Facilitation of continuity of care, for example when a patient moves out of CT, goes to college in another PSYPACT state, or travels.
- Provision of an added degree of consumer protection across state lines.

Connecticut consumers are in need of access to behavioral health services now, and PSYPACT is one important tool for improved access quickly. The Connecticut Psychological Association urges your immediate support of PSYPACT, psychology's interstate compact to facilitate telehealth and temporary in-person psychological practice.

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